

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 291

INFO SECDEF FOR OSD/ISA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 4245

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, PE

SUBJ: ADMIRAL VARGAS' RESIGNATION

RWF: LIMA 4210, 4211

1. MAY 31 LIMA DAILIES GIVE FACTUAL COVERAGE TO VARGAS RESIGNATION. PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILIES NUEVA CRONICA AND EXPRESO HEADLINE ARCE APPOINTMENT WHILE INDEPENDENT COMERCIO AND LA PRENSA FEATURE VARGAS RETIREMENT.

2. EL COMERCIO PUBLISHES LONE EDITORIAL PRAISING "NOBLE MOTIVES" OF VARGAS WHO DEFENDED NATIONAL CONCORD AND THE PRIMACY OF WESTERN AND CHRISTIAN VALUES; SAYS THAT "JOURNALISTS WILL REMEMBER HIS GALLANT IDENTI-

FICATION WITH FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND OPINION."

3. PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILIES DO NOT GLOAT OVER VARGAS RESIGNATION PROBABLY EVIDENCING MILGOV DECISION TO PLAY DOWN WHOLE AFFAIR. HOWEVER, RADICAL EXPRESO
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TRAINS IT S COLUMNS ON LA PRENSA AND ITS "REVEALING"

COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ISSUE OF MAY 30. EXPRESO SAYS THAT LA PRENSA " GAME IS CLEAR BECAUSE THE LATTER HEADLINED VELASCO'S PRESS STATEMENTS ABOUT VARGAS WITH ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE DEFENDING VARGAS (SEE REFTTEL) WHICH WAS NOT ISSUED UNTIL 2:30 A.M. EXPRESO TAKES LA PRENSA TO TASK FURTHER FOR PUBLISHING ACCION POPULAR'S COMMUNIQUE SUPPORTING VARGAS' FREEDOM OF THOUGHT DECLARATIONS ALONGSIDE DEPORTED AP LEADER ARIAS STELLA'S APPEAL FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND THE ADMIRALTY COMMUNIQUE. SEMI-OFFICIAL CRONICA ECHOES EXPRESO SAYING THAT LA PRENSA'S MAY 30 EDITION TRIED TO SHOW THAT IN PERU " HUMAN RIGHTS ARE TRAMPLED UPON," THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE DENYING THEIR SUPPORT TO THE REVOLUTION, THAT THE FRIENDS OF BELAUNDE FORM A RESPECTABLE GROUP AND THE THE MILGOV IS PROMOTING DISCORD AMONG PERUVIANS.

4. COMMENT: EXPRESO-CRONICA CAMPAIGN AGAINST EL COMERCIO, LA PRENSA AND INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS' FEDERATION, WHICH PROMPTED VARGAS TO DEFEND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ABATING. CAMPAIGN IS REPORTEDLY BEING ORCHESTRATED BY VELASCO'S PRESS SECRETARY AUGUSTO ZIMMERMANN. WITHOUT VARGAS TO DEFEND IT, INDEPENDENT PRESS MAY NOW BE MORE SILENT THAN EVER.
DEAN

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